

**LAND PROTECTION AND WATERSHED PATROLS**  
**MANCHESTER WATER WORKS**  
**ETHAN V HOWARD III**

The Manchester Water Works is charged with the responsibility of meeting the water supply needs of Manchester and surrounding communities. The department has been performing this function since 1873.

The Manchester Water Works is in the enviable position of having a long history of proactive watershed protection programs. Upon completion of the first pumping station and distribution reservoir, the watershed protection was started with the purchase of lakeshore lots. Over the years land purchases have amounted to over 8000 acres of watershed lands. This acreage covers about 25% of the total watershed area and is concentrated around Lake Massabesic and its tributaries. These lands have been under the supervision of a forester since 1934. The land holdings have been certified as a NH Tree Farm since 1989. We firmly believe that good forest management is good watershed management.

The Watershed Patrol established during the Second World War is another unique feature of our watershed protection program. This patrol is on the front lines of the watershed protection effort. Their duties range from water sample collection to issuing summons for swimming.

The completion of the Lake Massabesic Watershed Management Plan is providing a structure on which we are continuing to build our watershed protection effort. This plan, complete with GIS overlays, emphasizes the importance of the 21 sub watersheds that comprise the total watershed of the lake. This sub water mapping has confirmed one of the basic concepts of watershed management that being, all watersheds are unique based on their topography, land use, soil types, etc.

The Lake Massabesic Watershed Management Plan with its detailed raw water-monitoring scheme will move our watershed program into the next century.

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